

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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**** For immediate release****

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Fire Mobilization Ordered for the South Palouse River Fire

State fire assistance has been mobilized to support local firefighters working to contain a wildfire, which is burning approximately near Colfax in Whitman County. Washington State Patrol Chief Paul Beckley authorized the State Fire Services Mobilization Plan at 23:15 am on August 23, 2006.

The fire is located approximately six miles south of Colfax, Washington and is burning an estimated 4,000 acres. Approximately three homes are threatened and one home has been evacuated.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray remains at Phase II, to coordinate state assistance for the South Palouse River Fire. Staff from the Washington State Patrol's Fire Protection Bureau is en route to the fire.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau will be coordinating the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, and water tenders. Approximately 18 engines/tenders and 55 firefighting personnel are assigned to the Palouse River Fire.

The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment, and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions.

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